

## News Release

# Jason Brantner, Research Fellow at the NWROC, Recognized with the Sugarbeet Distinguished Service Award by the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association

By Itollefs on Friday, December 9, 2011

Jason Brantner, research fellow at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC) located in Crookston, Minn., was recently recognized with the Sugarbeet Distinguished Service Award. The award is based on recent significant contributions to the success of the sugarbeet industry in Minnesota and North Dakota. The award was presented on Thursday, December 1, 2011, by the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association during their annual meeting.



Brantner has been actively involved in the NWROC sugarbeet plant pathology project since January 1995. He works closely with Carol Windels, Ph.D., in setting up and maintaining experiments; collecting data; summarizing research results; and helping to write reports. He also helps coordinate trials with grower-cooperators, and other cooperating scientists at the NWROC, North Dakota State University, sugarbeet cooperatives, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) laboratories. The sugarbeet industry and growers have benefited from the quality of his work and consequently, the value of data related to disease management of soilborne pathogens, especially *Rhizoctonia* and *Aphanomyces*.

He has taken particular interest in working with registered and non-registered fungicides for control of *Rhizoctonia* and *Aphanomyces* and has screened products with potential for pathogen control, as well as practical information on products, rates, and application. Brantner took the initiative in identifying *Verticillium dahliae* as the cause of yellows on sugarbeet and determined the disease occurred when sugarbeet was grown in rotation with potato (also susceptible to the pathogen).

Throughout the summer, he is involved in the accurate and timely identification of pathogens on diseased sugarbeet samples submitted to the laboratory. Brantner also maintains an extensive culture collection of sugarbeet pathogens, which is a resource for the plant pathology project as well as researchers and teachers in industry, USDA, and other universities, who often request cultures. In recent years, Brantner regularly presents research papers and posters at professional meetings of the American Phytopathological Society (national society of plant pathologists) and the American Society of Sugarbeet Technologists. He has authored 59 technical articles, 5 refereed journal articles, 1 book chapter, and 23 abstracts presented at professional meetings as oral papers or posters at the American Phytopathological Society and the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists.

In 2006, Brantner was awarded the University of Minnesota Department of Plant Pathology Professional and Academic Award of Excellence, and in 2007, he received the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Distinguished Professional and Academic Award.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 26 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and 36 concentrations, including 10 online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,600 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

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